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Cairo Editor Is Arrested As Spy for CIA

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CPYRGHT

CAIRO—The government news agency charged Thursday that a prominent Cairo newspaper editor had been spying for "a long time" for the American Central Intelligence Agency and was caught redhanded Wednesday turning over information "harmful to security of the nation" to his U.S. contact.

The Middle East News Agency identified the American as Bruce Taylor O'Dell, a diplomat who the agency charged, "works for CIA under the guise of an attache for the United States embassy."

The U.S. embassy declined comment but informed sources said Egyptian Foreign Minister Mahmoud Raid had summoned Ambassador Lucius D. Battle to discuss the case.

Neither side would say if Egyptians had demanded O'Dell's expulsion but his departure was considered imminent in view of the Egyptian accusation. O'Dell, 37, joined the embassy last August.

The news agency report came amid almost complete official silence on the arrest of Mustafa Amin, one of the deans of the Cairo press and one of the most respected editors in the Middle East.

Reporter Is Nabbed

Another reporter for Amin's Akhbar Al Yom newspaper was arrested Thursday as the investigation widened. Informed sources identified him as Mustafa Sinan, who covers the government security department for Amin's newspapers.

So far no official charges against Amin have been announced.

The news agency said that Amin, long known for his pro-Western sympathies and contacts as well as his journalistic ability, had been recruited "a long time ago by the CIA."

The agency said he was caught in Alexandria by Egyptian intelligence "while giving a weekly report at the request of the CIA." Egyptian authorities reportedly had confiscated a paper "which contains questions from the CIA in the handwriting of Bruce Taylor O'Dell and Mustafa Amin's answers which contained political and military information harmful to the security and safety of the nation."